

IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 are pending in this application. Please amend claims 1-10 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A search method ~~[[by]]~~ with a search broker for searching for a service server providing an element service, for selecting and carrying out an element service in a next stage organized in a hierarchical structure from a group of element service servers for providing element services, said search broker being connected to a client ~~making a request~~ for requesting a service, the group of element service servers for providing more than two element services for providing a composite service servers organized in a hierarchical structure ~~for providing service~~, a policy database for holding policy information about service contents requested by said client, and a registry for holding contents of ~~service~~ the element services provided by said element service servers, said search method comprising:
 - a first step of receiving a request ~~to search~~ for service;
 - a second step of ~~asking for policy information of said client having made a request for service and~~ obtaining ~~[[the]]~~ policy information of said client from said policy database by inquiring the policy information of said client which requested said service;
 - a third step of ~~requesting a search for a server matching service asked for by said search request and~~ obtaining information ~~showing a~~ indicating a service server matching with said service from said registry by requesting a search of the service server matching with a service concerned with said search request;
 - a fourth step of extracting a service server matching with the client's policy information of said client obtained in said second step ~~from~~ among the service servers ~~related~~ relating to said information obtained in said third step; and
 - a fifth step of transmitting ~~[[the]]~~ information ~~showing~~ indicating the service server extracted in said fourth step to ~~[[the]]~~ a source of the ~~search~~ request for searching a service without handing policy information of said client.
2. (Currently Amended) A search method in Claim 1,
 - wherein said search broker ~~further comprises~~ includes an additional information database storing additional information related to a service provided by said service server,

wherein the third step further comprises obtaining additional information of the service server matching with the requested service from the additional information database, and

wherein said fourth step further comprises ~~referring to the server's additional information obtained in the third step from~~ , among service servers related relating to the information obtained in the third step, in reference with the additional information of the server obtained in the third step, and extracting [[a]] the service server matching with the client's policy information of the client obtained in the second step.

3. (Currently Amended) A search method ~~by a portal server~~ with a search broker for providing searching for a service server providing an element service, for selecting and carrying out an element service in a next stage organized in a hierarchical structure from a group of element service servers for providing the element services, said search broker being connected to a client for requesting a composite service, said a portal server being connected to a client making a request for service for serving as a portal of said composite service, a group of service servers for providing more than two element services organized in a hierarchical structure for providing a composite service, servers organized in a hierarchical structure for providing service, a policy database for holding policy information about service contents requested by said client, a registry for holding contents of element service provided by said servers, and a search broker for searching for a service server for providing an element service in response to a accordance with the search request for service, said search method, performed by said portal server providing service to said search broker, comprising:

a first step of, with said portal server, receiving a service request of the composite service from said client;

a second step of, with said portal server, asking requesting said search broker to search for a server matching with said element service request in the next stage structuring the requested composite service;

a third step of, with said portal server, obtaining information about a server matching ~~said service request and asking said server to provide service~~ with element service in the next stage structuring the requested composite service from said search broker, and requesting the element service from the server; and

a fourth step of, with said server, ~~who has accepted~~ which received said

~~service request from said portal server, requesting search of the server matching with~~
~~the element service in the next stage structuring the requested element service to the~~
~~search broker, asking said search broker to search for a server matching said requested~~
~~service, obtaining information about said server matching with said requested element~~
~~service from the search broker, and asking requesting the element service to said~~
~~server to provide service, and carrying out request for the element service in the next~~
~~stage in a similar method as in the two to four steps.~~

4. (Currently Amended) A search method according to Claim 3,
 - wherein said portal ~~further comprises~~ includes a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a ~~lower-stratum~~ server in a lower layer,
 - wherein said server ~~having~~ includes a server policy database for storing information for selecting a ~~lower-stratum~~ server in the lower layer,
 - wherein said third step further comprises extracting a server ~~matching conforming with~~ policy information of said portal server policy database ~~from~~ among the obtained servers ~~obtained for a reason of being suitable for matching with~~ said requested service, and asking requesting the service for the extracted server ~~said extracted server to provide service, and~~
 - wherein said fourth step further comprises extracting a server ~~matching conforming with the~~ policy information server policy database ~~from~~ among servers ~~obtained for a reason of being suitable for~~ as matching with said requested service, and asking requesting said extracted server to provide the requested service.
5. (Currently Amended) A search method according to Claim 3,
 - wherein said portal server ~~further comprises~~ includes a portal server policy database for storing information for selecting a ~~lower-stratum~~ server in a lower layer,
 - wherein said portal server receives from said server which requested the service a result of the service ~~from said server requested service~~ and information for evaluating the service, and
 - wherein on the basis of information for evaluating said service, ~~a result of the~~ evaluation of the server's service carried out by said client is reflected in said portal server policy database.

6. (Currently Amended) A search method according to Claim 5,
wherein on the basis of a result of comparison between a ~~level of credibility~~ reliability being set for said client and a predetermined standard value, said portal server ~~makes a decision~~ determines whether to automatically ~~have~~ reflect the evaluation of said server's service ~~reflected~~ in said portal server policy database or to ~~ask the~~ inquire an operator to ~~reflect said evaluation of said server's service in~~ if the evaluation of said server's service will be reflected in said portal server policy database.
7. (Currently Amended) A search method according to Claim 3,
wherein said server ~~further comprises~~ includes a server policy database for storing information for selecting a ~~lower stratum server in a lower layer, wherein said server transmits and sending~~ information for ~~evaluation of service along with evaluating the server with~~ a result of service ~~requested and accepted of which request is received~~ in said third or fourth step to ~~[[the]]~~ a source of the service request, and
wherein on the basis of information for ~~evaluation of~~ evaluating said service, ~~from among evaluation results~~ evaluations of service of said server ~~done~~ carried out by said client, ~~the evaluation of service of a lower stratum server is reflected in the~~ evaluation of the service of the server in the lower layer is reflected to said server policy database.
8. (Currently Amended) A search method according to Claim 7, wherein on the basis of a result of ~~comparison~~ evaluation between a ~~level of credibility~~ reliability value set for said client and a predetermined ~~standard~~ reference value, said server ~~makes a decision~~ determines whether to automatically ~~have the evaluation of said server's service reflected in~~ reflect the evaluation of the service in said portal server policy database or to ~~ask the~~ inquire an operator to ~~reflect~~ if said evaluation of said server's service ~~[[in]]~~ will be reflected in said portal server policy database.
9. (Currently Amended) A search broker for searching for a service server providing an element service, for selecting and carrying out the element service in a next stage organized in a hierarchical structure for providing an element service, said search broker being connected to a client ~~making a request for~~ requesting a service, servers

~~organized in a hierarchical structure for providing service~~ a server for providing more than two element services for providing a composite service structured hierarchically, a policy database for ~~holding~~ retaining policy information about ~~a~~ service requested by said client, and a registry for holding contents of service provided by said servers, said search broker, comprising:

a search request receiving part for receiving a ~~request to~~ search for a service;

a policy inquiry part ~~asking~~ for inquiring said policy database for policy information of said client ~~having made a request for~~ requesting the service, and obtaining the policy information ~~of said client~~ from said policy database;

a registry search part for requesting a search for a ~~server~~ service matching with ~~a service asked for by~~ concerned with said search request and obtaining information ~~showing a~~ indicating the server matching with said service from said registry;

a policy extracting part for extracting ~~[[a]]~~ the server matching with the client's policy information of the client ~~obtained by said policy part from among servers related to said information obtained by said registry search part;~~ and

a search result transmitting part for transmitting the information ~~showing~~ indicating the server extracted by said policy extracting part to ~~[[the]]~~ a source of said ~~search request for~~ requesting the service.

10. (Currently Amended) A search broker according to Claim 9, further comprising:

an additional information database for storing additional information about contents of service provided by said server; and an additional information search part for obtaining the additional information about a server matching with said requested service from said additional information database,

wherein said policy extracting part, in reference ~~refers~~ to said additional information about a server obtained by said additional information search part, ~~from~~ among servers related to the information obtained by said registry search part, ~~[[and]]~~ extracts the server matching with the client's policy information of the client obtained by said policy inquiry part.